

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2501
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
CULTURAL AGREEMENTS
Bose Shri Subrata;Saroj Shri Tufani

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has entered into cultural agreements with certain countries like China during the last one year and current year;
- (b) if so, the details of the number of countries with which the Government has developed cultural exchange programmes;
- (c) whether there is also proposal to host performance, exhibitions and cultural festivals to improve the cultural ties between the countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the funds provided/proposed to be provided to the Indian High Commissioner in those countries for making the said programme a success during the above period;
- (f) whether the Government has assessed the success of these programmes;
- (g) if so, the results thereof;
- (h) whether irregularities have been noticed in usage of such funds; and
- (i) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM & CULTURE(SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

- (a) One Cultural Agreement has been signed with Ecuador in July, 2007 during the last one year.
- (b) Cultural Exchange Programmes have been signed with eighteen (18) countries during April, 2006 to July, 2007.
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The Cultural Exchange Programmes between India and other countries include proposals for dance and music performances, exhibitions related to display of artifacts, art objects, antiques, paintings etc.; and cultural festivals including organization of festival of India in other countries and festival of other countries in India.
- (e) Responsibility for funding various activities under the Cultural Exchange Programme are determined by the General & Financial Provisions of the Cultural Exchange Programme. Normally it is the sending party which meets the cost of the exhibitions and the host country meets the expenditure towards local hospitality including providing space etc. No funds are provided to the Indian High Commissions by Ministry of Culture for the purpose.
- (f) & (g): Cultural Exchange Programmes play an important role in strengthening bilateral relations with different countries. In some cases these are periodically reviewed through the mechanism of Joint Working Group.
- (h) & (i) In view of (e) above, do not arise.